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| EXAMINER | | | | |
| EKPO, NNENNA NGOZI | | | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/531,742

Applicant(s)

MONNIER, RAOUL

Examiner

NNENNA N. EKPO

Art Unit

2425

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 5-8 and 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Previous Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 to claims 2 and 4 has been withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because examiner suggest applicant to follow the guidelines for the layout for the specification. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a

nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sawyer (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0025841).

Regarding **claim 1**, Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) discloses a multiple output conversion unit for radio signal distribution comprising (see fig. 1(100) and paragraph 0005, lines 1-3):

a transposition part carrying out the transposition of the signal to an intermediate frequency band (see figs. 2, 3 (120) and paragraph 0023); and

a selecting part effecting the selection of signals to be sent to decoders (see figs. 2, 3 (110) and paragraph 0023).

However, Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) fail to specifically disclose the conversion unit comprises a filter means linking the inputs/outputs of the selecting part to allow control signals in a communication signal frequency band to pass between the inputs/outputs while preventing passage of signals therebetween in the intermediate frequency band.

In an analogous art, Sawyer discloses the conversion unit comprises a filter means linking the inputs/outputs of the selecting part to allow control signals in a communication signal frequency band to pass between the inputs/outputs while preventing passage of signals therebetween in the intermediate frequency band (see paragraphs 0078 and fig. 6, the bandpass filter links the output and input for selection of signals in order to allow or reduce the level of unwanted signals).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) to include the conversion unit comprises a filter means linking the inputs/outputs of the selecting part to allow control signals in a communication signal frequency band to pass between the inputs/outputs while preventing passage of signals therebetween in the intermediate frequency band as taught by Sawyer for the advantage of reducing the level of unwanted signals.

Regarding **claim 9**, Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) discloses a satellite program reception system comprising:

at least two electrical signal sources corresponding to radio waves (see figs. 2 and 3),

a frequency transposition means for transposing signals of a transmission frequency band into at least two intermediate frequency bands (see figs. 2, 3 (120) and paragraph 0023);

a switching matrix having at least two input/outputs, for performing selection of the transposed signals (see figs. 2, 3 (110) and paragraph 0023); and

at least two decoders each connected to one of the inputs/outputs of said switching matrix by means of two distinct coaxial cables (see fig. 1 (2, 100) and paragraph 0006).

However, Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) fail to specifically disclose a filter means linking the inputs/outputs to allow control signals in a communication frequency band to pass therebetween while preventing passage of signals in the intermediate frequency bands.

In an analogous art, Sawyer discloses a filter means linking the inputs/outputs to allow control signals in a communication frequency band to pass therebetween while preventing passage of signals in the intermediate frequency bands (see paragraphs 0078 and fig. 6, the bandpass filter links the output and input for selection of signals in order to allow or reduce the level of unwanted signals).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) to include a filter means linking the inputs/outputs to allow control signals in a

communication frequency band to pass therebetween while preventing passage of signals in the intermediate frequency bands as taught by Sawyer for the advantage of reducing the level of unwanted signals.

Regarding **claim 2**, Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and Sawyer discloses everything claimed as applied above (see *claim 1*). Sawyer discloses wherein the filter means is a bandpass filter whose bandwidth corresponds to the communication signal frequency band (see paragraph 0078 and fig. 6).

Regarding **claim 4**, Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and Sawyer discloses everything claimed as applied above (see *claim 2*). Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) discloses wherein the selecting part comprises:

Switching means and filter for suppressing the communication filter signal frequency band (see fig. 3 and paragraph 0031, lines 13-16).

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Antoine, Mark (WO-02/065780) discloses a system for switching multiple broadcast signals from satellite and cable for transmission through a single coaxial cable to television receivers (see abstract).

Watanaba, Hirokazu (EP 1024603) discloses a satellite-broadcasting receiving converter which includes a plurality of output terminals each of which is connected to an external receiver (see abstract).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **NNENNA N. EKPO** whose telephone number is (571)270-1663. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian T. Pendleton can be reached on 571-272-7527. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nnenna Ekpo/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2425
March 18, 2010.

/Brian T. Pendleton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2425